



News Release

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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MERIDIAN SANITARY SERVICES COMPANY TRUCKS **FIRST EVERY GARBAGE FLEET IN IDAHO TO USE B20 BIODIESEL FUEL**

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Six diesel-powered garbage and recycling trucks operating in Meridian residential subdivisions are now running on a biodiesel fuel that can cut harmful exhaust emissions by up to 20 percent, Idaho Energy Divisions officials announced today.

It's the first time ever in Idaho that diesel fleets in general garbage and recycling operations have used the B-20 biodiesel fuel, Energy division officials said. The B20 biodiesel fuel powering the Sanitary Services Corporation trucks is a blend of soybean oil and petroleum diesel.

SSC will use biodiesel fuel in four residential collection trucks and two residential recycling trucks that serve approximately 12,500 homes a week. These trucks use approximately 1,000 gallons of fuel each week.

B20 biodiesel fuel burns cleaner than regular diesel greatly reducing harmful vehicle emissions common in diesel exhaust, especially dangerous particulates. B20 fuel can reduce particulates in diesel exhaust by up to 18 percent, air toxics by up to 20 percent, carbon monoxide by about 12 percent and hydrocarbons by 11 percent according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

"We have been researching alternative fuels for more than two years and we are glad to take part in this program. We are committed to implementing programs that improve the environment in cities we serve," said Bill Gregory, Operations Manager for Sanitary Services.

The SSC vehicles using the fuel will have special markings on the side noting they are operating on the clean-burning biodiesel fuel. The six vehicles will burn the B20 fuel for the next 6-9 months.

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Meridian Mayor Robert Corrie praised SSC for its move towards biofuel saying: “I commend Sanitary Services for their efforts to explore alternative fuels and being the first solid waste collection company in Idaho to take part in this program. Switching to this fuel improves air quality throughout the valley and I appreciate that they are doing their part for the City of Meridian and Ada County.” Mayor Corrie is also the chairman of the Air Quality Board for Ada County.

It’s part of the B20 Treasure Valley program being conducted by the Idaho Energy division in partnership with local public and private sector organizations. Diesel users in the partnership are paying the cost of the diesel and the Idaho Energy Division, using a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, is paying the additional 15 cents per gallon for the biofuel.

United Oil of Nampa is mixing and delivering the fuel. United Oil combines pure soybean oil shipped in by tanker with low sulfur diesel at a 20%80% ratio to produce the B20 fuel.

Treasure Valley Transit commuter buses began using the fuel last week. A number of school buses from the Meridian School District will also begin using the fuel shortly.

For more information on the program you can call Dick Larsen, the program manager, at 327-7933 or visit the B20 Treasure Valley web site at www.idwr.state.id.us/B20.